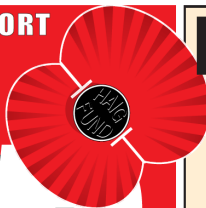


THE NEWS THE GOSS THE PICS THE SPORT

DAILY STAR

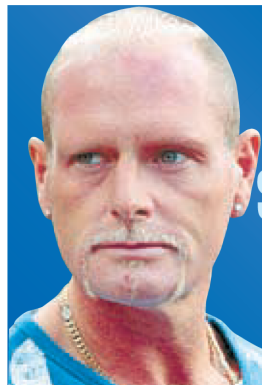
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004

SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p



Princess Anne cheats death by seconds

JET NEAR-MISS: PAGE 11



EXCLUSIVE

GAZZA: KEEPER SEAMAN SAVED MY LIFE

FULL STORY: PAGE 27

Picture: CAN ASSOCIATES LTD

POSH GETS £1M SEX TOY



BIG BUZZ: Victoria

Becks' diamond gift

SOCCEr golden boy David Beckham is set to put the smile back on wife Victoria's face with a £1million jewel-encrusted sex toy. The diamond and platinum sex aid – the world's priciest –

EXCLUSIVE

is on his Christmas shopping list to put the sparkle back into his troubled marriage.

Full story: Pages 6 & 7



SEXY NEW
CELEB
PICTURES

Jordan

JUST TOO
HOT TO
HANDLE
IN THE
JUNGLE



EXCLUSIVE
PAGE 5

WORLD SAYS FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT ARAFAT



HONOUR: French guards carry coffin. Inset Arafat

Leader makes final journey

■ MASS mourning by Palestinians and muted tributes from the rest of the world greeted the death of Yasser Arafat yesterday.

The 75-year-old terrorist turned statesman died after being in a coma for a week in a hospital outside Paris.

Tony Blair said: "Obviously he was a huge icon for the Palestinian people. Whatever differences we had I think it is right to recognise that."

President George Bush refused to pay tribute to Arafat, simply referring to his death as "a significant moment in Palestine history".

His death plunged the Middle East into uncertainty -

and sparked a scramble for his reputed \$3billion fortune. Billions of pounds of aid and donations to the Palestine cause have vanished over the years.

■ Living humbly and teetotal, Arafat is thought to have used his wealth to buy loyalty from his followers.

His wife Suha is reported to receive £55,000 from secret funds and stays in a £10,000-a-night Paris hotel room.

He is expected to be buried in the West Bank town of Ramallah as Israelis opposed his dying wish of being laid to rest in Jerusalem.

GRIEF: Wife Sura Arafat watches her husband's coffin. A Palestinian soldier, right, breaks down in tears by posters of his ex leader

Pictures: AP PHOTO



GIPSIES TELL BLAIR: GIVE US MORE LAND

GIPSY children marched on Downing Street yesterday to demand more travellers' sites.

Five youngsters handed in a letter to Tony Blair, saying travellers were "one of the UK's most excluded minorities".

But the protest, organised by the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition, met determined opposition last night.

MPs said homeowners' rights had to be

■ by MACER HALL, Political Editor

defended against illegal camps. Tory MP Simon Burns said: "Creating more campsites won't solve the problem of travellers who park wherever they want to."

Mr Burns - whose constituents in Chelmsford, Essex, spent two years battling to evict travellers - added: "The law needs to be strengthened to give authorities the power to remove illegal sites."

But Bridgette Jones, of Canterbury, Kent, who accompanied the five children to No 10, said: "The local authorities are not building enough sites and the few sites they are building are on sewers and tips."

"The Government is planning to build thousands of new homes but there are no plans for any more gypsy sites."

"The Government doesn't want us to go anywhere. People don't want us to go anywhere."

Toilet

Bernadette Collins, 12, one of the children, said her family had to move from London to a site in Middlesbrough as there was not enough room for them in the capital.

Describing conditions at her new home, she said: "There are seven families using one toilet and there's no electricity or running



PLEA: Gypsy children hand in letter at No 10 yesterday

hot water. We are having to go to the swimming baths every night for a shower."

The travellers are angry about a legal shake-up 10 years ago that stopped local councils being forced to provide camp sites.

Silvia Dunn, of Rayleigh, Essex, was also part of the delegation to Downing Street.

She said: "At the moment sites have to have licences and these can be rescinded with just 24 hours' notice. "That is not acceptable."

Rockets hit Watch base

BLACK Watch soldiers came under fire yesterday just hours after holding a Remembrance service at their Iraq base.

There were no reported injuries in the latest attack on Camp Dogwood. Rockets struck the base for the third time in 24 hours.

Renée's letdown

● Page 56

FILMS 44-46 ● FORUM 57
TELLY 48-51 ● CITY 59
PUZZLES 52-53 ● MOTORS 60-62

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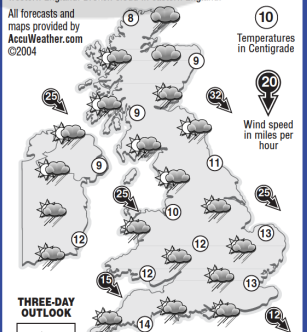
Don't worry about the cost, we will call you straight back
FOR ANY OTHER INQUIRY PLEASE CALL: 0871 434 1010

INFO STATION

TODAY: Very windy and chilly across Northern Ireland and Scotland with blustery showers over the Shetland Islands and eastern Scotland. A little light rain for England which will die out later in the day.

OUTLOOK: Windy again across Scotland with bright spells and blustery showers. Dry with sunshine in Northern Ireland, Wales and western England. Broken cloud in eastern England.

All forecasts and maps provided by
AccuWeather.com
©2004



THREE-DAY OUTLOOK

Saturday
Chilly

Sunday
Sunshine

Monday
Windy

POUND ABROAD

Australia	2.42 dollars
Canada	2.21 dollars
Cyprus	0.82 pounds
Czech Republic	44.95 korunas
Mexico	20.98 pesos
South Africa	11.38 rand
Thailand	74.84 baht
Turkey	2684861 lira
United States	1.84 dollars

EURO

Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain	€ 1.43
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ABROAD

Alicante	12c (53)	Moscow	cloudy	4c (39)
Corfu	thunder 20c (68)	N. York	rain	8c (46)
Dublin	showers 11c (52)	Nice	cloudy	16c (61)
L. Angeles	sunny 21c (70)	Paris	fair	8c (46)
Majorca	thunder 14c (57)	Rhodes	cloudy	22c (71)
Miami	fair	Rome	rain	19c (64)
	29c (84)	Tenerife	fair	19c (66)

£10m BIRTHDAY DRAW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5, 17, 23, 26, 42, 48 Six tickets shared £10million

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

3 5 6 15 16 17 26

1 ticket matched all seven balls to win £30,000

SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 6

2 26 29 36 39 40 10

Three ticket holders share the £7.8m jackpot

EXTRA: 1, 12, 31, 32, 39, 47 T'Ball: 1, 5, 6, 14, 16 (T'Ball 11)

No Extra winners. Three T'Ball winner get £250,000 each

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 10

13 27 37 40 43 49 1

No ticket won the £3.4m lottery jackpot

EXTRA: 3, 5, 33, 35, 39, 47 T'Ball: 1, 5, 6, 14, 16 (T'Ball 12)

No £2.8m Extra jackpot winner. 1 T'Ball £250,000 winner

EURO LOTTO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6, 19, 25, 42, 49 Lucky Star Numbers 1, 7

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 63.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2003

SHOULD GIPSIES GET MORE LAND?

YES: 0901 890 2900 - NO: 0901 890 2901

If you want to use SMS text:
Yes text DSVOTE A to 61616 - No text DSVOTE B to 61616

Calls cost 25p from a BT landline. Lines close at midnight. Texts cost 25p plus network operator rates. More than 99 per cent of readers believe immigrants should not be given work permits

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- Bill Withers: Lean On Me
- Luther Vandross: So Amazing
- Deniece Williams: Free
- The Jacksons: Can You Feel it
- The O'Jays: Back Stabbers
- Billy Paul: Me & Mrs Jones



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FREE IN YOUR
PAPER THE NEXT SATURDAY,
THEN GET VOLUME 3 **FREE**
THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY



Sophie

It's all in the bag with your
telly mag this Saturday

**TURN TO
PAGE 12 FOR YOUR
PAGE 3 BABE**

THE OFFICIAL REALITY TV PAPER OFFICIAL

COBBERS KATE



FAMILIES AT WAR: The couples are kept apart on TV yesterday

Party lover Jordan gets ban from Oz

by PETER DYKE

PARTY-loving Jordan has been BANNED from flying to Australia to present a TV show about I'm A Celebrity.

Busty glamour girl Kate Price and fiancé Peter Andre have been signed up by ITV's This Morning to front daily reports about the stars' jungle antics.

Jordan, 26, had been hoping to jet off Down Under and languish in five-star luxury to be close to all the action.

But bosses slapped a ban on the fiery-tempered gal going to Oz so they can keep a watchful eye on her.

They were worried that the hell-raiser would be out partying all the time in Queensland and wouldn't get up in time for her live morning shows with 31-year-old pop star lover Peter.

Shock

A show source said: "Jordan genuinely thought she and Peter would be whisked off to Australia to present these slots on This Morning from the show's November 21 start date."

"But she got a shock when they said she wasn't going anywhere near the Aussie outback and would be staying in the UK for the whole two weeks."

"The producers decided it would be best to keep a tight reign on her because she is still a late-night party animal."

"When she was booted off the last I'm A Celebrity in January she was like a wild tiger released from its cage."

"She would run riot at parties and run down the hotel corridors afterwards."

"They couldn't run the risk of her being thousands of miles away and either not being able to find her or trying to wake her in time for live reports."

"It was safer to keep her here - and under control."

Real fun bag lady

BUSTY Kate Price has undergone a huge cover-up operation.

She spent more than 15 hours having her appearance altered in a bid to dupe her family, fiancé Peter Andre AND her agent.

In Five's Jordan Gets Even, to be screened next year, she'll be seen as a bag lady, an ugly pop fan and a middle-aged TV executive.

A source at Five revealed: "The make-up artists certainly had their work cut out trying to cover up Kate's massive boobs."



LOOKING FOR SUN: The Tunney family

Hol ends in barrier grief

TWO feuding families from ITV's Holiday Showdown had to be separated by a barrier when they talked about the reality show yesterday.

The kiss-me-quick Codrai family and the sun-lovin' Tunneys took each other on holiday to Blackpool and Dubai for the hit programme.

But things turned nasty on GMTV yesterday when one of the Codrairs branded the Mrs Tunney "stuck up" and "ugly".

The two families appeared on the GMTV set with a barrier between them.

And tensions rose when Chris Codrai talked to GMTV's Andrew Castle about their trip to Dubai. He said: "Hayley was too mouthy, and too stropky. She's got a big attitude, she needs to sort it out. She's got to take a chill pill."

by PAUL GREAVES

Ugly

"She was in our face shouting at us."

"She's got to look at herself, before she says anything about us."

"Look at her ugly face!"

When talking about who enjoyed the Blackpool holiday, Nicky Codrai said: "The father (Lee) and kids of the Tunney family did,

maybe Hayley's too old for it, maybe she's just stuck-up?"

But Hayley Tunney responded: "If stuck up is going on holiday abroad in a luxury five star hotel - then so be it."

Their holiday showdown will be screened tonight on ITV1.

It's not the first controversy to hit the show.

Michelle and Mark Greenwood's relationship hit the skids when they went skiing.



BLACKPOOL ROCKS: The Codrai family just love to be beside the seaside with a traditional holiday break

REALITY TV PAPER

OFFICIAL

REALITY TV PAPER

Romeo Peter needs a hand

THIS is the moment when pop hunk Peter Andre asks Jordan to marry him.

Dopey chart star Peter, 31, almost spoils the occasion when he puts the sparkler on the wrong finger.

But as our pictures show 26-year-old Kate Price forgives him.

The proposal can be seen on the six-week show When Jordan Met Peter, which starts on ITV1 tonight.



KNUCKLE HEAD: Peter asks Kate to wed him, but she says not until he puts the ring on the right finger



FORGIVEN: After working out where the ring goes, romantic Peter is given his answer by a loved-up Kate



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DAILY STAR says

Harry's dad should try it

THEY'RE hoping to make a man of Prince Harry.

He'll have no special privileges when he undergoes his Army training at Sandhurst.

Major General Andrew Ritchie promises he'll be "treated the same as everyone else".

He'll even have to polish his own shoes and do his own ironing.

And he'll be called Mr Wales (as well as many unprintable names).

Harry has shown himself to be an adventurous lad.

We're sure he'll pass this test of character with flying colours.

But there's another Royal who could do with this sort of treatment - his dad.

Prince Charles has become increasingly removed from his people.

This is no doubt due in part to his grand and pampered lifestyle.

Former Palace staff have revealed he can barely dress himself without the help of a manservant.

It would do him good to be marched to Sandhurst and be told:

You 'orrible little man!

Blair fears over Tories

TONY Blair was in a flap yesterday.

The Prime Minister rearranged his schedule to make a speech on childcare.

He dressed up some previously-announced measures as something new. What was he up to?

Mr Blair's real purpose was to spoil a long-planned speech on the issue by Michael Howard.

This was a sly move to deflect the spotlight onto him and away from the Tory leader.

Childcare will be an important issue at the next election.

And voters should be able to hear - loud and clear - what all political parties are proposing.

Mr Blair's attempt to drown out Mr Howard is contemptible.

And it makes you wonder, what's he afraid of?

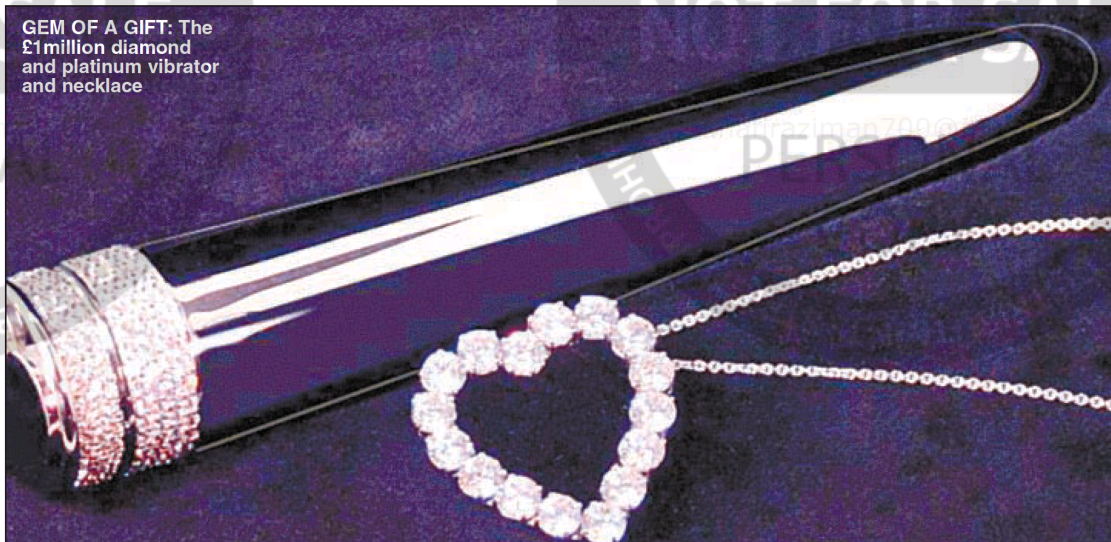
What a buzz that will be...

DAVID Beckham wants to buy a £1 million diamond-encrusted sex toy for Victoria.

We wonder if she'll tell him where to stick it!

LOVE FROM

GEM OF A GIFT: The £1million diamond and platinum vibrator and necklace



£1m toy to give Posh big smile

by JOE MOTT

DAVID Beckham aims to put the buzz back into his marriage by buying Posh the world's most expensive sex toy.

Becks reckons the £1m jewel-encrusted vibrator is just the thing to leave a sparkling smile on wife Victoria's face.

The platinum vibrator, with a 10-carat diamond-encrusted base linked to a 16-carat diamond necklace, is the latest creation from lapdance king Peter Stringfellow.

"David's got the Golden Balls, now he can have a platinum penis," he says.

Becks, 29, has already shown an interest in blingin' bedroom aids. He reportedly splashed out £125 on a diamante-studded whip for Victoria, as well as sexy undies

EXCLUSIVE

from Agent Provocateur. But the Jewell is just the thing to prove that diamonds really are a girl's best friend, says nightclub boss Stringfellow, 63.

"A little birdie told me on the way in that David has heard about the vibrator and would be interested in ordering one," revealed Stringfellow as he launched the toy with dancers at his London club.

"Victoria's such a beautiful girl - it would fit her perfectly. They've got thrones, mansions, cars and now they can have the world's most expensive sex toy - Golden Balls and the Platinum Vibrator."

Stringfellow also said Rolling Stone Mick Jagger was keen to get his hands on one. He added: "Originally it was going to be a one-off, but now we're going to make five for very special clients."

Frosty

Real Madrid ace Becks has been struggling to save his marriage after he was accused of cheating on Posh with his ex-PA Rebecca Loos, 26, and model Sarah Marbeck, 29.

Just last month 22-year-old beautician Dannielle Heath sold a "kiss and tell" story claiming Becks had bedded her.

England skipper Beckham denied all the claims and dismissed them as rubbish.

Victoria, 30, has now agreed to move to a luxury Madrid home - but things are still frosty between the couple.

As the Daily Star revealed yesterday, the ex-Spice Girl has drawn up her own version of the Ten Commandments by which he must abide.

These include not flirting, not sulking and not giving girls the chance to kiss and tell.

Sources claim Victoria, who is expecting their third child, has warned him to stick to her rules or she'll move back to the UK. A spokesman for the Beckhams had no comment yesterday on Jewell.

A source close to the couple said: "That would be a private matter between David, Peter and Victoria."



DAVID Beckham's former lover Rebecca Loos lets it all hang out as she dances the night away at a glitzy celebrity bash in London.

Rebecca - who made £1million from her affair with the England skipper - bopped with a host of eligible bachelors at West End club Tramp following her

success on Five's reality show *The Farm*.

The former PA joined names like Sven Goran Eriksson's ex Nancy Dell'Olio, who admits to being 46, and Princess Michael's son Lord Freddie Windsor, 25, for Tatler Magazine's Little Black Book Party. Rebecca, 27, eventually left with a mystery fella.



SHAKE IT, REBECCA

DIAMOND BALLS

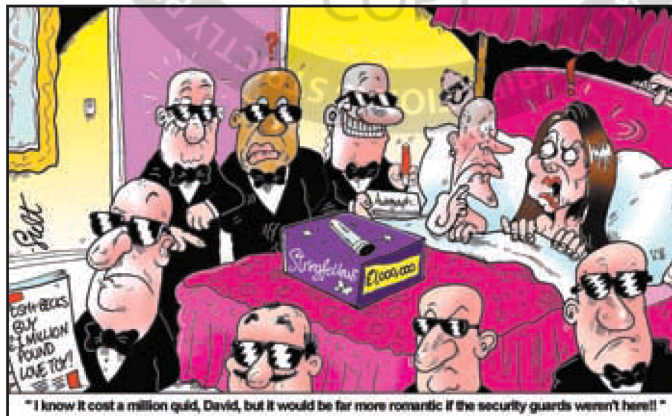


GOOD VIBES:
Posh and son
Romeo, two, shop in
London yesterday
while Becks, inset, is
pictured at a sports
store launch

Pictures: MOCKFORD /
BOUWMEESTER / ALPHA;
JOHN STILLWELL / PA and
DAVE BENETT



TOY BOY: Stringfellow and dancer



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Child's play as leaders fight for parent votes



LOOK HERE KIDS... I'M YOUR MAN

PLEASE SIR: Michael Howard has unveiled his childcare plans



BREAK TIME: Tony Blair visits a school in Hackney yesterday

TONY Blair and Michael Howard battled to win over mums and dads yesterday.

Both party leaders made rival pledges to help parents look after their children.

And they signalled that childcare will be a top issue in the run-up to next May's expected general election.

Tories accused the Prime Minister of panic after he switched the date of his speech in an alleged attempt to overshadow Mr Howard's address. Mr

by MACER HALL
Political Editor

Blair unveiled Labour's new childcare policies hours before flying to Washington for talks with President Bush.

Labour hit back by claiming the Tories' childcare policies were "a shambles".

Cash

Ministers ridiculed the Tories for failing to say exactly how much extra cash mums and dads would get under them.

Mr Howard said Government childcare policies were "inflexible",

arguing parents should "decide how to spend their money".

He said it was "daft" that grandparents could not get more rewards for helping out.

Visiting a children's breakfast club in Hackney, east London, yesterday, Mr Blair promised help for families coping with the "stress and struggle" of daily life.

He said: "The school day does not necessarily fit the parents' working day, so if both parents are working it is a real stress and struggle for them."

The Star Says: Page 6

What Howard says

■ New mums to get up to £150 a week to stay at home with tots aged under one. At present, mums get £102.80 a week for the first six months.

■ Cash instead of tax credits, so parents can pay grandparents or other relatives to look after their children.

■ Tax relief up to 40% on cost of nannies or childminders.

■ Grannies will get "fast-track" training to become qualified childminders.

What Blair says

■ Children aged 5-11 will be guaranteed care at school from 8am to 6pm so parents can go to work.

■ During school holidays, the all-day care will be available at about £3.50 a day.

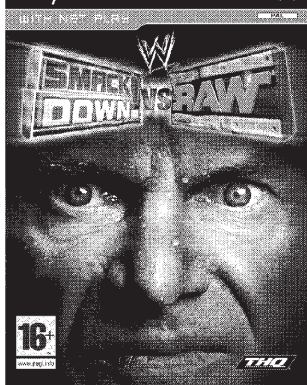
■ More Government cash to help childcare, particularly in London.

■ Extra measures for tots and secondary school kids will be unveiled later this year.

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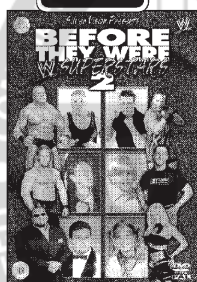
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LITTLE SOLDIER WEARS DEAD DADDY'S MEDALS



by PAUL GREAVES

A THREE-year-old pinned his dad's medals on his chest yesterday and joined the nation in remembering our war dead.

Major Matthew Titchener, father of little Matheson, was serving with the Royal Military Police in Basra last year when he was killed in an ambush. During a ceremony yesterday Matheson, with the help of his uncle Daniel Titchener, unveiled the major's name on a war memorial in their home town of Southport, Merseyside. The tot then laid a wreath.

Emotional

Following prayers and a two-minute silence for Major Titchener, 32, hundreds lined the streets to observe the traditional 11am silence for all fallen servicemen.

After the ceremonies Major Titchener's wife Raquel, 29, said: "I was so proud to see my husband's name up there as a tribute to his bravery and his sacrifice."

"I think it is important to leave a lasting memorial in the middle of town so people will see it. It will remind them that there are people still in Iraq risking their lives and fighting for our children's future."

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh laid a cross of Remembrance and met war veterans from different conflicts at Westminster Abbey.

A bugler sounded the Last Post to signal observance of the silence.

The Queen and the Duke then opened the Field of Remembrance outside the Abbey, where hundreds of small wooden crosses, planted in the ground by loved ones, bear the names of fallen soldiers.

Sara Jones, widow of Falklands hero Colonel H Jones, read the poem: "At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

Last night, three million poppy petals were showered over the Thames from two World War II Douglas Dakota DC3 planes.

Giant poppies and a message of remembrance were also projected on to the walls of the Shell building on London's South Bank.



HERO: Little Matheson and his uncle Daniel remember Major Matthew Titchener, inset, who was killed in Iraq



PRAYER: The Queen's thoughts are with the fallen and the cross for the Black Watch soldier



UPSET: Gemma

Mac's pop at cadets

by JOHN MAHONEY
SISTERS selling poppies outside a McDonald's were told to burger off after being accused of putting off customers.

Cadets Kerry Shaw, 15, and Gemma, 13, were heartbroken when they were ordered to stop their Remembrance Day collection outside the restaurant in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs.

And the girls' furious mum accused McDonald's of insulting the memory of all those who gave their lives fighting for their country.

Inquiry

Lollipop lady Angela, 40, from Dukinfield, said: "What they did to my girls was disgusting. They had permission from the council to sell poppies, yet one of the workers moved them on saying they were taking trade away."

A McDonald's spokesman said: "As a long-serving supporter of Remembrance Day we were concerned to hear of the two cadets' experiences and have started an inquiry."

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Esther Rantzen

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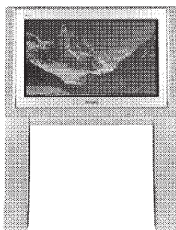
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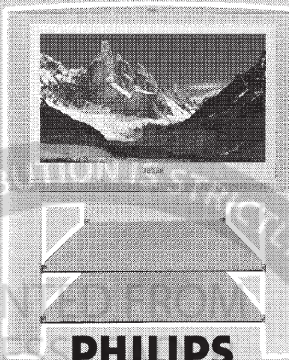
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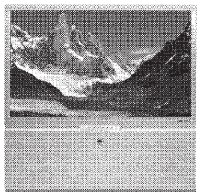
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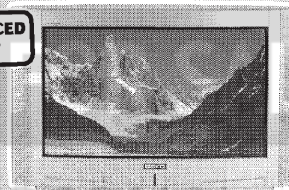
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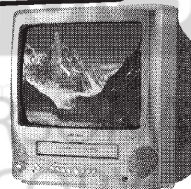
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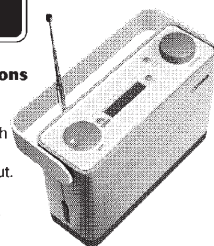
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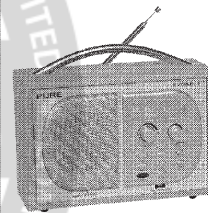
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CAREFUL, HARRY: The party-animal prince must behave or else

ANNE SECONDS FROM MID-AIR CRASH HORROR



THREAT: A Royal jet like Anne's

by JAMES WICKHAM

PRINCESS Anne was just nine seconds from death when a fighter jet roared straight at her plane yesterday.

An RAF Typhoon terrifyingly came within a whisker of smashing into a Royal Squadron flight carrying the Queen's daughter to Scotland.

The jet, with a top speed of 1,321mph, hurtled into the five-mile exclusion zone surrounding the Royal aircraft as it flew above Morecambe Bay.

Dramatically, air traffic controllers launched a full scale alert and ordered the Princess's aircraft to quickly descend.

But the no-nonsense Royal calmly instructed the pilot to continue flying to RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland where she carried out a string of official duties.

The 54-year-old princess was said to be very cool throughout. Her spokesman said: "The Princess was made aware of the incident and she continued with her journey."

Buffer

But anxious Ministry of Defence officials immediately launched an investigation into how a routine royal flight almost turned into a mid-air disaster.

An MoD spokesman said the two planes had a specific distance agreed between them but this was breached by one of the aircraft.

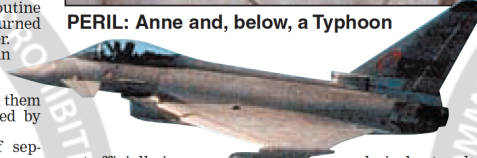
"There was loss of separation - a buffer zone - between this plane and a Typhoon jet," he said.

"The Typhoon was exercising alone with one pilot. They did not hit each other and everybody was fine."

The RAF jet, which is not



PERIL: Anne and, below, a Typhoon



yet officially in service, was based at the factory of giant arms firm BAE at Warton, near Manchester.

The Typhoon is twice as powerful as the famous Harrier. It carries six Sea King long-range missiles

and six heat-seeking short-range missiles. Yesterday's scare followed an alert in March when a Royal Squadron jet carrying the Prince of Wales to Spain was involved in a near miss with a civilian airliner.

Harry: No easy ride

ROYAL hellraiser Prince Harry has been warned by army top brass: "Behave or you will get the boot."

In January, Harry will join around 270 cadets at Sandhurst military academy in Berkshire.

Yesterday academy Commander Maj Gen Andrew Ritchie said: "He is the same as every other cadet and I will have no hesitation in dismissing him if he falls out of line."

"That is what he and everyone would expect."

Army bigwigs have

by STEPHEN RIGLEY

pledged that Harry, 20, - who will be known as Officer Cadet Wales - will not get any special treatment during his gruelling, 44-week course.

Maj Gen Ritchie added: "The ethos of Sandhurst is every single cadet is treated the same as the next one. And there are some fierce guard sergeants who absolutely maintain that philosophy."

"Everyone has to prove themselves."



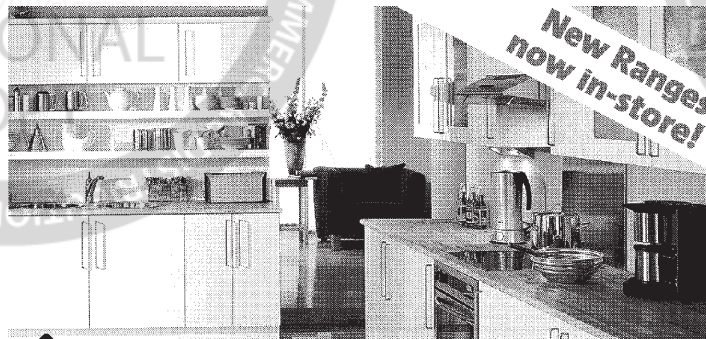
TOUGH REPUTATION: Sandhurst

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Picture: JEANY SAVAGE



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Batman games tragedy

THE tearful parents of a 10-year-old boy told how he hanged himself after being grounded for answering back.

Jordan Lee Cronin was found by his grandad Richard Proud in his bedroom with a dressing-gown cord around his neck.

Stepdad Timothy Clough told an inquest at Kettering, Northants, the family did not believe Jordan had killed himself deliberately.

He said it was a game gone wrong.

Trouble

Jordan was "like a little Batman" always getting into scrapes and injuring himself.

He added: "He liked martial arts and he'd tie these things around his head."

Mum Amanda Clough said she had told Jordan off because he had got into trouble with a teacher for talking to a girl during lessons.

He was ordered upstairs by Timothy, from Corby, Northants, after talking back to his mother.

Verdict: Open.

A RAT brought misery to train travellers by gnawing through a signal cable - triggering the fail-safe system and turning all lights red on the Paddington to Swindon line.

Brits set for airlift

UK troops are poised to airlift Brits from the riot-torn Ivory Coast.

Around 300 soldiers are ready to help rescue up to 400 UK citizens from the west African state.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said: "We would expect the operation to last days, not weeks."



UNDER SIEGE: Chef Gordon Ramsay is mobbed for his nosh by a bunch of kids



ICE MAIDEN: Martine McCutcheon

TV CELEBS ON THEIR MARKS

STORE giants M&S are cooking up a Christmas blitz on the telly.

Hell's Kitchen chef Gordon Ramsay appears in a massive ad campaign alongside a host of other celebs.

In one advert, Gordon, 37, gets all hot and bothered as

■ **by MAZ PARTASIDES**

he is mobbed by a bunch of kids while he tucks into his party nosh.

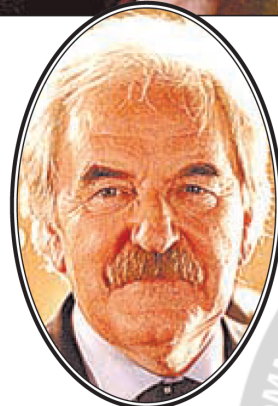
Smooth

Stars from singer Martine McCutcheon, 28, to pop babe Rachel Stevens, 26 - have signed up for the Marks & Spencer campaign.

In one ad, Martine fiddles with her jewellery and says she needs "lots of ice".

And, as Marks bids to sex-up Christmas, Rachel is seen in a figure-hugging bustier flirting with ladies' favourite Des Lynam, 58.

The first of the multi-million-pound ads will be seen during the Coronation Street break tonight.

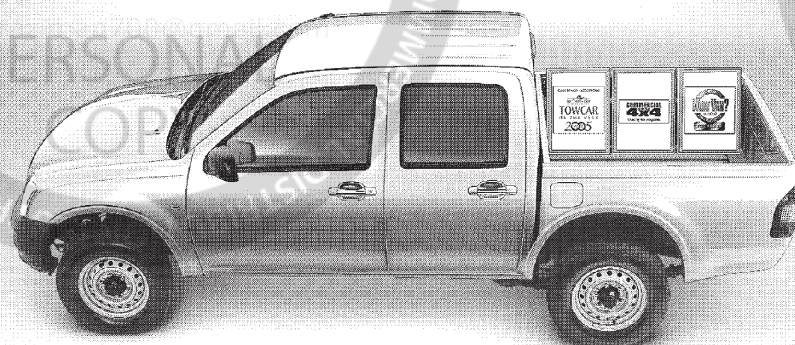


TV CHARMER: Des Lynam

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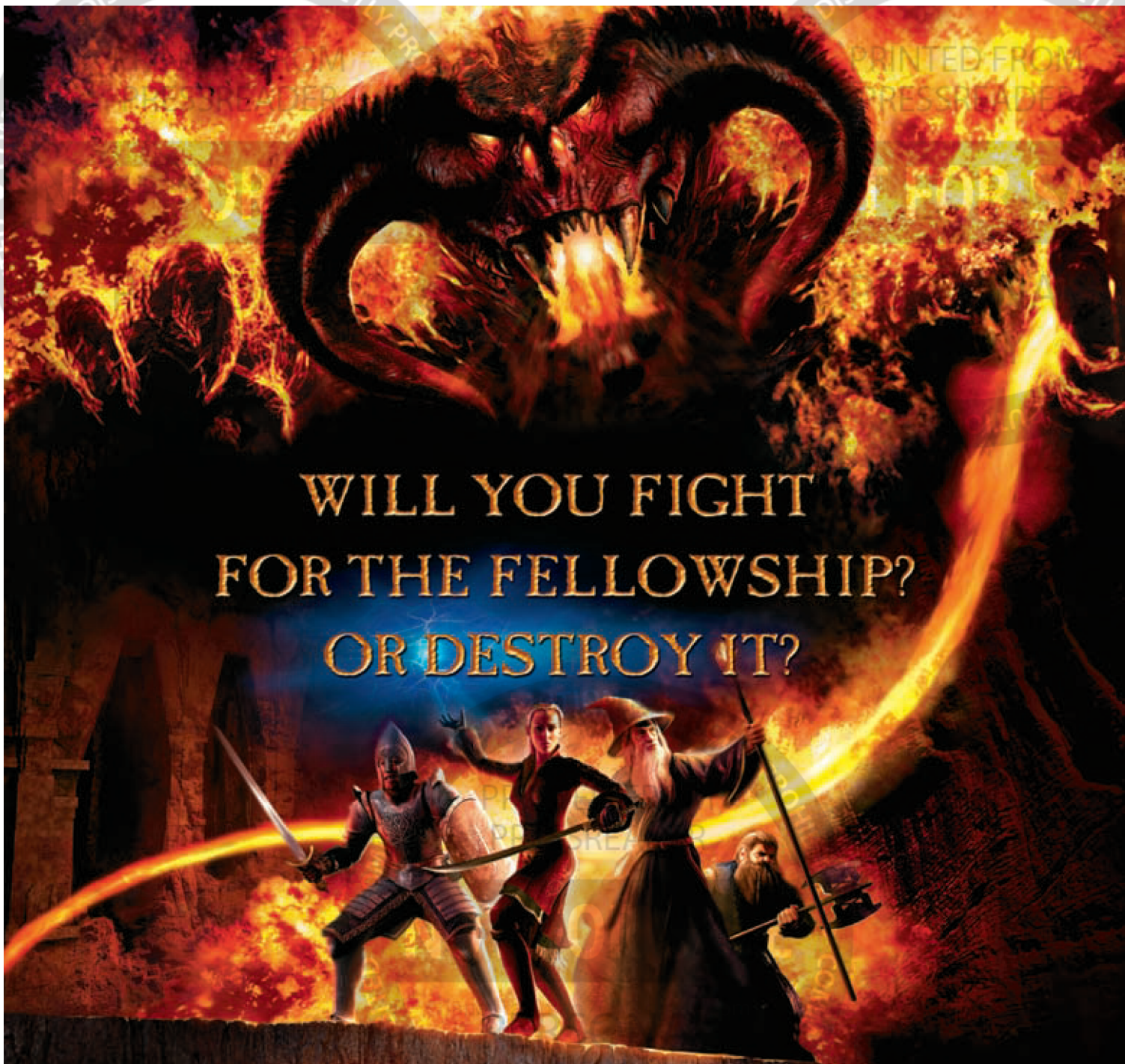


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GANGSTA RAP THAT SPARKED SHOOTING

THE botched drive-by shooting that left two innocent girls dead was triggered by a real life gangsta rap.

Gang member Jermaine Carty, 24, leapt on a nightclub stage, grabbed the microphone and belted out an anthem taunting a rival mob.

As he performed the rap he flashed a handgun he'd smuggled into the club, Leicester Crown Court heard yesterday.

Among the audience was Marcus Ellis - a member of the rival Burger Bar gang

■ by JERRY LAWTON

who the rapper had challenged. Two hours later Ellis, 24, was among four men in a car who tried to kill Carty by firing at him with a sub-machinegun outside a hair-dressing salon in Birmingham where a party was being held, it is alleged.

The mob fired 40 shots but not one hit Johnson Crew gang member Carty or any of his fellow thugs.

Instead they hit Ellis's 18-year-old twin sisters Charlene and Sophie, their cousin Cheryl Shaw, 17, and pal Letisha Shakespeare, 18. The girls were innocent partygoers who had nipped outside for some fresh air, the jury heard.

Charlene died instantly after being hit three times - once in the head.

Letisha was also killed when one of four bullets went through her heart.

Sophie was shot in the chest, face and arm, but survived. Cheryl also lived after being hit in the hand.

The car was later found burnt out in a car park in nearby Smethwick.

Match

A spent cartridge which had gone into the bonnet as the machinegun was fired was recovered from the smouldering wreckage.

It matched bullets removed from the girls' bodies, said prosecutor Mr Timothy Raggatt.

Ellis, Nathan Martin, 25, Michael Gregory, 22, Rodrigo "Sunny" Simms, 20, and a 22-year-old man who cannot be named for legal reasons, all from Birmingham, deny two charges of murder and three of attempted murder.

Mr Raggatt added that the day after the shooting Simms had told a pal: "It's all f***ed. The girls, the girls... we f***ed up."

The trial continues.

GUN RAID 7 HELD

POLICE yesterday arrested seven people and seized guns and hand grenades in raids on 11 houses in Bucks, Berks and Oxford.



Picture: DAVE BENNETT

Madonna fans lost for words...

■ HUNDREDS of fans missed out on seeing Madonna yesterday, despite queueing for 24 hours. Only the first 250 people were allowed into the 46-year-old pop queen's book signing at Selfridges, London, plugging her fourth children's book.

■ The new tale, like her previous books, is said to be based on the ancient Jewish faith Kabbalah, which the millionaire star and film director husband Guy Ritchie both follow.

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DON'T LEG IT, SOPHIE

NO Sophie, it's the phone you're holding that they're supposed to be looking at, not your lovely legs.

But you can't keep an attention-seeker down and we bet the folks at Vodafone were pleased with their coverage.

Not that much else was covered up as far as Ms Anderton was concerned. In fact, she was the only thing more sleek and shiny than the phone itself.

Picture: DAVE BENETT



Nicolas goes vest

AT the age of 40 Nicolas Cage just seems to be prolonging his mid-life crisis.

Not content with marrying, then divorcing, his idol Elvis's daughter, he's now treating his new wife Alice to this James Dean meets MeatLoaf incarnation. The Presley shades

have stayed – although Lisa Marie, 36, didn't.

But the chavish tattoos and biker vest, right, are fashion faux pas the King wouldn't have accepted.

He did manage to treat Alice to a trip on a yacht. Well she deserves something for putting up with that...

Picture: BIGPICTURES/PHOTO.COM



THE GOSS

With KATIE HIND, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS

CLUB SNUB FOR STREET STAR TINA



UP YOURS: Angry Tina

CORRIE sex kitten Tina O'Brien was left in floods of tears after being refused entry to a top Manchester club.

Normally the toast of the town, Tina, 21, who has seen her career hit the stratosphere through playing gymslip mum Sarah Platt, stumbled across one of the few doormen in the city unaware of her fame.

Despite her pleas – and those of co-star and boyfriend Ryan Thomas, also 21 – she couldn't talk her way into the exclusive Circle Club.

The embarrassment hit the poor love hard as Ryan and other male cast members helped her away amid torrents of tears.

Confused

Our Manchester mole told us: "There was a ripple of excitement when the Corrie lot joined the VIP queue to get into the club.

"They're a pretty everyday feature on the scene but Tina is a mini Elizabeth Hurley as far as some of the crowd are concerned – especially the gay contingent. We couldn't wait to see what she was wearing.

"When they got to the doorman he asked for their names. They looked confused but gave them and then, after what seemed like an eternity, he said they weren't down and couldn't come in.

"One of the boys uttered the obligatory, 'Do you know who we are?' and the doorman replied that they just weren't down to come in, whoever they were.

"My mate then asked him if he watched Corrie and he said he hated TV. That was when Tina started to join in.

"She was very sweet and just politely asked to be allowed to have a drink, but to no avail. Ryan got a bit over-protective and the doorman asked them to leave."

It was one drama too many for diminutive Tina.

"She was hysterical," our insider continued.

"We all expected Ryan to start throwing punches but he was pretty cool.

"It was when he noticed Tina blubbing that he got upset. He and some of the other lads just dragged her away. They practically had to pick her up.

"We couldn't believe our eyes. The Corrie lot are used to being treated like royalty."

She should have said cobbles to them.

HUSH HUSH

WHICH gay Premiership footballer is set to be outed if he doesn't keep taking silly risks behind his girlfriend's back? This confused lad – who has amused himself with one-night stands for years – has lost his senses since falling seriously for another famous man. We hope it doesn't all end in tears.

SPOTTED

BOND star Timothy Dalton reading a book in a pub in Queenstown, New Zealand, while trying to avoid the English tourists chanting the 007 theme tune at him. Actress Kirsten Dunst reading on a Virgin flight from London to L.A. And Cameron Diaz ordering takeaway California Rolls from West Hollywood's Nobu.

ROCK chick Pink shocked clubbers when she refused to pay her way at a top US nightspot. After staff at LA's Prey told the 24-year-old multi-millionaire she'd have to pay the minimum \$500 fee for her own booth, she stormed off home. "She went crazy," said one onlooker.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?